

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

1-18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) A lockout device comprising:

a) an interior closed ended half cylinder nested within an exterior closed ended half cylinder, said interior and exterior half cylinders each having a circumferential wall having an inner surface and an outer surface;

b) a T slot comprising a T slot track formed in the inner surface of the circumferential wall of the exterior half cylinder and a T slot rail attached to the outer surface of the circumferential wall of the interior half cylinder, wherein the T slot rail slides into and out of the T slot track when the lockout device is moved between a closed position and an open positions;

c) an interlock attached to one end of the T slot, comprising a bar crossmember disposed on the T slot rail and an extended portion ~~one or more portions of the edges~~ of the T slot track that protrudes toward said inner surface of said circumferential wall of said exterior half cylinder ~~extend inward into the track~~, wherein the bar crossmember slides past ~~contacts~~ said ~~one or more~~ extended portion ~~portions~~ when the interior half cylinder is fully telescoped out of the exterior half cylinder to place the device in the closed position; and

d) at least one locking tab attached to each half cylinder, each locking tab having one or more locking openings wherein said locking openings overlap when said lockout device is in the closed position.

20. (currently amended) A lockout device comprising:

an inner piece including a rail;

an outer piece including a track, wherein said inner piece is nested within said outer piece, wherein said rail slides along said track to rotate said inner piece ~~move said lockout device~~ in a first direction toward ~~to and from~~ a closed position and in a second direction toward an open

position;

a crossmember formed as part of the rail, said track including two edges, one or more of said edges having an extended portion that protrudes extends inward toward a center of said inner and outer pieces into the track;

wherein said crossmember rotates in said first direction past engages said one or more extended portions of said edges of the track when said lockout device is in said closed position, the engagement of said crossmember and said extended portions of said edges of the track prevents further rotational movement of said inner piece relative to said outer piece in said first direction beyond said closed position.

21. (previously presented) The lockout device of claim 20 further comprising one or more locking tabs, wherein said locking tabs include a means for securing the lockout device in the closed position.

22. (previously presented) The lockout device of claim 20 wherein said inner and outer piece can be positioned in at least two positions;

- (i) a closed position wherein an object is substantially surrounded by said pieces; and
- (ii) an open position wherein an object can move into and out of said pieces, wherein said open position provides a total surface area of the lockout device that is approximately one-half of the total surface area of the lockout device in said closed position.

23. (currently amended) A lockout device comprising:

an inner piece and an outer piece, each of the inner piece and the outer piece having an outer surface and an inner surface, wherein said inner piece and said outer piece are telescopically engaged such that said inner piece is substantially nested within said outer piece when said lockout device is in an opened position and substantially extended from within said outer piece when said lockout device is in a closed position;

a rail projecting from approximately the center of the outer surface of said inner piece;
and

a track formed within the inner surface of said outer piece, at approximately the center of

said inner surface, wherein said rail slides along said track to provide telescopic movement of said inner and outer pieces; and

an interlock, wherein said interlock includes a crossmember that engages a portion of the track when said lockout device is in the closed position, wherein said engagement of said crossmember and said portion of the track prevents further telescopic movement of said pieces beyond said closed position.

24-25. (cancelled)

26. (previously presented) The lockout device of claim 23 further comprising a recessed surface on an outer surface of said inner or outer piece.

27. (previously presented) The lockout device of claim 23 further comprising an opening in a portion of at least one of said inner and outer piece, wherein a portion of an object secured by said lockout device can extend out from within said lockout device through said opening when said lockout device is in the closed position.